LLOYD OSBOURNE

CONSUL SKIDDY'S DILEMMA

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Things had been dull in Anla before the arrival of Captain Satterice in the Southern Belle. Not bushness alone—which was, or course, only to be expected, what with civil war being just over and the Kanakas driven to ear titely ecconauts instead of selling them to traduce in the form of repra—but, socially speaking, the little capital of the Samoan group had been next door to dead. Plantes had been few, it heavy dust had settled on the floor of the public hall—a galvanizad iron harn which social leaders could rein for six Chile dollars a night, lights included; the butcher's wedding, contrary to all expectations, had been strictly private, and might almost have slipped by uncolled had it not been for a friendly editorial in the Samoa Weekly Times; and with the saveption of an auction, a funeral and a billiard tournament at the International bottel, a general lethary had overtaken Apia and the handful of whites who made it their home.

hotel, a general lethargy had overtaken Apla and the handful of whites who made it their home.

As Mr Skiddy, the boylish American consul expressed himself, "you can't get anybody to do anything these days."

Possibly this long spell of monotony contributed to Captain Satterlee's pronounced and instant success. The toposition of the Southern Belle had hardly more than appeared over the horizon when beople began to wake up and realize that stagmation had too long held them in its thrall. Satterlee was not at all the ordinary kind of sex captain to which the Beach (as Apia always alluded to itself) was more than well acquainted. Gin had no attractions for Captain Satterlee, nor did he surround liftmelf with dusky impropriety. He played a straight social game and flyed up to the ruins, even to party calls, and finger bowls on his cabin table. He was a tall, thin American of about 45, with doorwalker manners, grayish muttonchop whiskers and a roving eye. The general verdict of Apia was that he was "very superior. His superiority whe apparent in his genitemative baldings, his openwork socks, his well-immed references to current events, his kindly and induigent attitude toward all things Samean. He deplored the rivairy of the three contending nationalities—German, English and American—whose official representatives outered nevertions. Satterlee, let it be informed that the role of pencentake had informed sattled outpar lamself.

The a little place everybody ought to all reaches." he would say in his bland

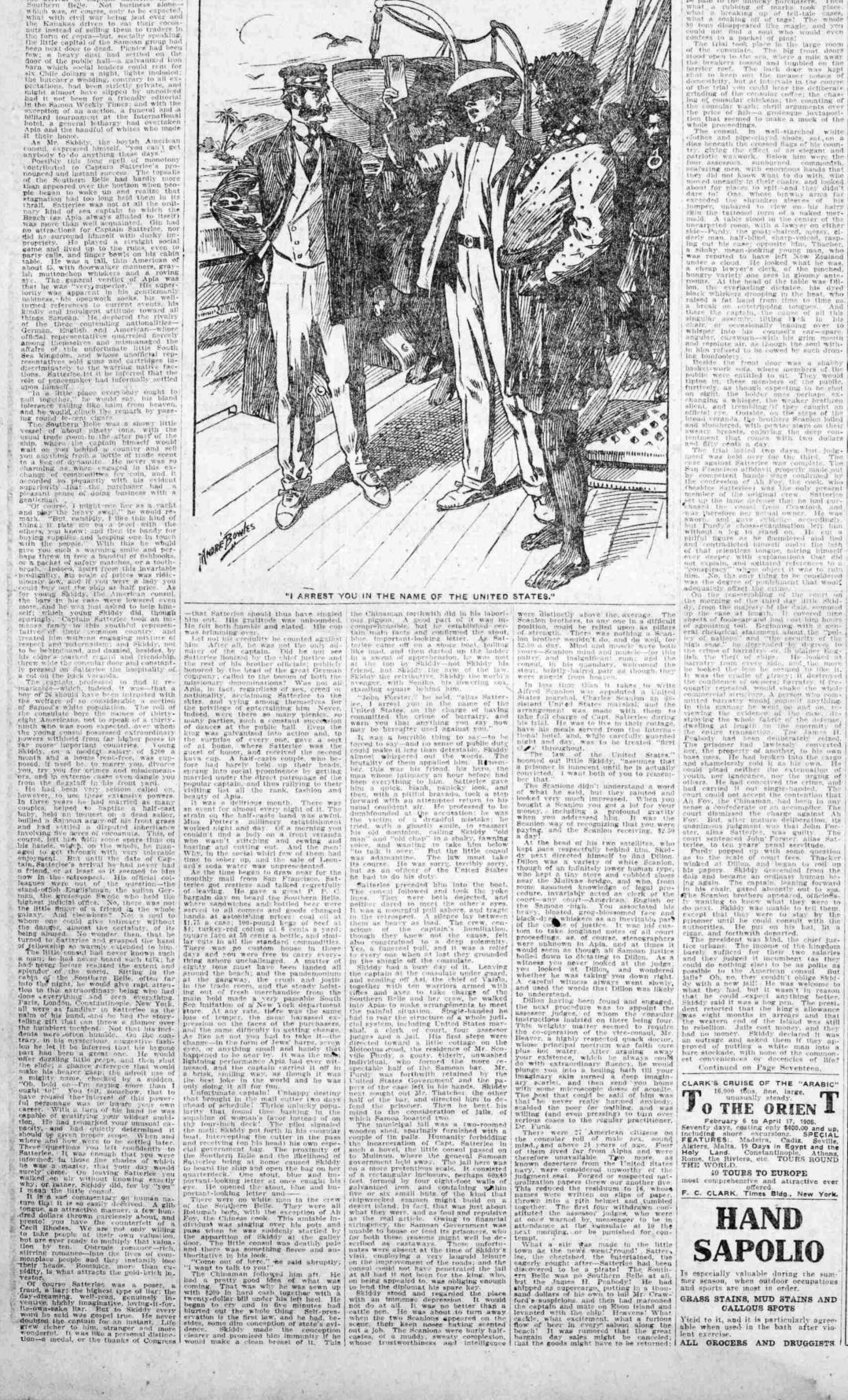
role of pencenniker had informally settled upon himself.

"In a little pince everybody ought to built together," he would say his bland tolerance fading like baim from heaven, and he would clinch the remark by passing round to-cent clears.

The Southern Belie was a showy little vessel of about altesty tong, with the usual trade room in the after part of the ship, where the captain himself would wait on you behind a counter and sell you anything from a bottle of trade scent to a keg of dynamite. He never was so charming as when engaged in this exchange of commodities for coin, and it accorded so piquantly with his evident superiority that the purchaser had a pleasant pence of doing business with a gentleman.

"Of course, I might room for as a yacht."

gentleman.
"Of course, I might can her as a vacht,
and pasy the heavy swell," he would re-mark. "But candidly, I like thin kind of thins, it rats me on a level with the others, you know, and then its handy for



that not a peany of compensation would be said to the univexy purchasers. Their what a soliding of marks took rises were solid to the univexy purchasers. The whole was a soliding of of tags! The whole will be said to the univexy purchasers. The whole will be said to the univexy to the would even what a soliding of of tags! The whole will be said cannot. The trial took place the the large condition of the days of the consular chickens: The big front deorge short took place the the large condition of the consular chickens: the counting of domesticity, but at inturvals in the course for the consular chickens: the counting of the consular wash; whill arguments over the consular wash; whill arguments of the training of the consular chickens; the counting of the consular ch

have his meals served from the internative his meals served from the internative his meals and, while carefully souried to the foundation of the United States, becomed out little Skiddy, "assumes that a prisoner is innecent until he is actually convicted. I want both of you to remember that."

The Scanlone didn't understand a word of what he said, but they sainted and looked very much impressed. When you bought a Scanlon you got a lot for your money, including a profound gravity when you addressed him. It was the Scanlon way of recognizing that you were paying, and the Scanlon receiving, \$2.50 a day.

At the head of his two saicilites, who plans respectfully behind him. Skiddy and said seen that the control of his reverse hear the Mullyase bridge, and who, from though of an hishitely lower human sense at the Mullyase bridge, and who from some assumed knowledge of legal proceedure, invariably acted as clerk of the control o

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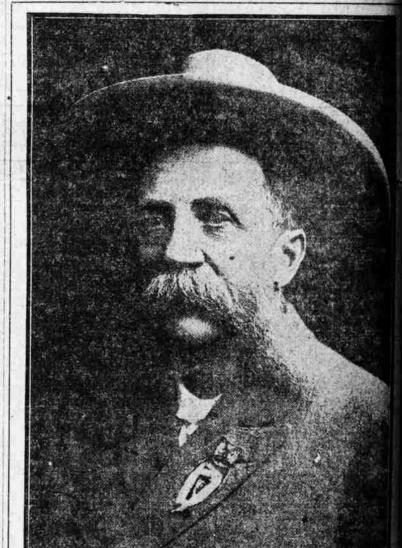
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